

Message Text

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STATE FOR CU/EA; USIA FOR ICS/DE AND IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EVALUATION - JACK BARBASH

1. ECONOMICS PROFESSOR JACK BARBASH, UNIV. OF WISCONSIN.
AMSPEC. LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS: "WORKERS' PARTICIPATION,"
"TRADE UNIONS AND CAPITALISM," "INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE
U.S.," "TRADE UNIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE," "NATIONAL ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL POLICY AND THE LABOR UNIONS." JA-13 (PARTIAL).
2. QP-VG; ED-VG; AR-G; RO-VG; FLC-N/A.
3. BARBASH QUICKLY ESTABLISHED GOOD RAPPORT WITH HIS AUDIENCE
AND ENGAGED IN ACTIVE "GIVE AND TAKE" DURING DISCUSSION PERIODS.
NEARLY 90 PCT OF THE 261 ATTENDEES AT ALL SIX ACS WERE
PRIMARY AND MAINLY MEMBERS FROM ACADEMIC, LABOR, GOVERNMENT,
BUSINESS, MEDIA COMMUNITIES AND LABOR ECONOMICS GRADUATE STU-
DENTS. AMONG THEM WERE HIGH LABOR UNION OFFICIALS FROM SOHYO,
DOMEI, CHURITSU, SHINSANBETSU.
4. PROGRAMS PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE APPROACHES
FOR AMELIORATING INTERNATIONAL LABOR PROBLEMS IN U.S.,
JAPAN, E.C. RELATIONSHIPS. IN HIS PRESENTATION BARBASH
POINTED OUT THAT WORKERS' PARTICIPATION IS USUALLY
INITIATED BY MANAGEMENT. PARTICIPATION MAY INCLUDE
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EMPLOYMENT, FINANCE, MARKETING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
DECISIONS. HE DISCUSSED EFFECTS OF VARIOUS FORMS OF
WORKERS' PARTICIPATION ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AS WELL
AS ON AN INDIVIDUAL COMPANY. BARBASH IS OPPOSED TO
WORKERS' PARTICIPATION WHICH LEADS TO WORKER CONTROL
BECAUSE THAT WOULD DEVELOP INTO TOO MUCH ECONOMIC INFLU-
ENCE BY ONE CLASS. BARBASH APPARENTLY PREFERS COLLECTIVE

BARGAINING AS PRACTICED WITHIN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. HE DISCUSSED ADVANCED CAPITALIST, LDC, AND SOCIALIST LABOR MODELS. ALTHOUGH UNIONS ARE A PRODUCT OF CAPITALISM, THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY PRO-CAPITALIST BUT RATHER ACCEPT THE SOCIETY WITHIN WHICH THEY MUST OPERATE. AMERICAN UNIONS ARE PRAGMATIC WITH GOALS OF UPGRADING LABOR'S PRICE AND POWER THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ARBITRATION.

5. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON COMPARISON OF GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES IN U.S. AND JAPAN, COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND CONTROL IN JAPANESE UNIONS, IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AS A UNION ACTIVITY. AUDIENCES WERE INTERESTED IN ATTEMPTS AT INCLUDING LOWEST 20 PCT OF AMERICAN WORK FORCE INTO TRADE UNION SYSTEM. RAISING WAGES AND ELEVATING CLASS STATUS IS ESSENCE OF SOCIAL-JUSTICE UNIONISM. DOES OVER-EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE CREATE EXTRA UNEMPLOYMENT? WHAT IS IMPACT OF RISING MINIMUM WAGES OF HIGH WAGE-EARNERS' "BLUE COLLAR ARISTOCRAT" STATUS? QUESTIONS ALSO RANGED OVER PROBLEMS OF FORCING SMALL-SIZE LOW-PRODUCTION FIRMS TO PAY WAGES BEYOND THEIR PROFIT-EARNING CAPACITY AND WHETHER U.S. TRADE UNIONISM WILL DEVOTE ITSELF TO IMPROVING WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

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